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WHO IS THE BLACK PANTHER?

PART ONE

WAKANDA 5TH CENTURY A.D.

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STAY FOCUSED. I'VE HEARD THAT THE WAKANDANS ARE FIERCE.
FIERCE? ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE LAST TRIBE?
YEAH, AND THE ONE BEFORE THAT!
ACTUALLY, NO. I ONLY SAID THAT ABOUT THE WAKANDANS.

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WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER. I HOPE THEY CAN FIGHT. BECAUSE I'M GETTING BORED--
SHLAK
THUNK
WHAT IS THAT?!!
THE *PANTHER'S TEETH*, NOW GET FOCUSED.

...STAY COOL, STAY COOL...
THUNK
HOLD YOUR GROUND! RUNNING WILL ONLY MAKE IT WORSE!
OH, IT'S GETTING WORSE...

RUN AWAAA

THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
THWP
KISS MY BUTT, WAKAN--
THWP

TELL YOUR TRIBE.
TELL EVERYONE.

THE WAKANDANS HAD GIANT CROSSBOWS? THAT'S AMAZING...
...I'M NOT SURE THE ENGLISH HAD SUCH TECHNOLOGY AT THE TIME...
NOT UNTIL THE 10TH CENTURY. WAKANDA WAS ALREADY AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE WORLD.
CLEVER LITTLE BUGGERS, AND TOUGH, TOO.
OH, YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING YET...

WAKANDA 19TH CENTURY.
SIR! THE NATIVES REFUSE TO GO ANY FARTHER, SIR!
FLOG THEM.
UH, WE HAVE, SIR. THEY STILL WON'T BUDGE.
HAVE THESE PEOPLE NO SENSE OF INDUSTRY?
THEY'RE SCARED OF THE WAKANDANS, SIR. BAD JUJU, THAT SORT OF THING.

LABOR PROBLEMS IN AFRICA--THAT'S A NEW ONE!
DO YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY? DO YOU?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE. HOW THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET THAT BLASTED GATLING GUN IN POSITION?
THESE ARE SOME OF THE SAME BOYS WE HAD DURING THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN. THEY DID A BANG-UP JOB THERE. DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THEM.
IF THEY DON'T GET OFF THEIR BLACK ASSES, IT'LL BE HOT LEAD--
THEY'RE RUNNING FOR IT!
TREASONOUS BASTARDS! FIRE AT WILL!

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
THAT'LL SHOW 'EM.
OH NO!
WHAT?
WHO'S GOING TO CARRY ALL THIS?

PERHAPS, GIVEN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, WE COULD LEAVE THE FINE CHINA BEHIND?
NO! WE WILL NOT LOSE OUR GRIP ON CIVILIZATION BECAUSE OF THOSE MONKEYS. WE WILL NOT BE DRAGGED DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL...
DON'T FAINT ON ME NOW, JENSEN...
AAARRRGH!
SIR... PERHAPS AN INSPIRING WORD?
I SWEAR ON MY CHILD'S LIFE, WHEN WE GET BACK TO OUR HARD-WON BASE CAMP IN PRETORIA, EVERY KAFFIR ON OUR LAND WILL PAY FIVE TIMES OVER FOR THIS BETRAYAL!
I WILL TEACH THESE WAKANDANS THE TRUE MEANING OF FEAR!

WAKANDA...
...IT'S *EVERYTHING* THE LEGENDS SAY IT IS. WEIRD-LOOKING BUILDINGS, THOUGH, BUT I CAN SEE GOLD TRINKETS FROM HERE.
THE BOYS WILL GET THEIR FAIR SHARE OF *BOOTY* TONIGHT, FOR SURE.

WHAT--?

THEY'RE ON TO US! PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
KLI-CLACK
KLI-CLACK
KLI-CLACK
KLI-CLACK
KLI-CLACK

LEAVE NOW AND I WILL LET YOU LIVE.
ATTACK AND ONLY ONE OF YOU WILL BE LEFT STANDING.
HEH HEH... RIGHT...
FIRE AT WILL!

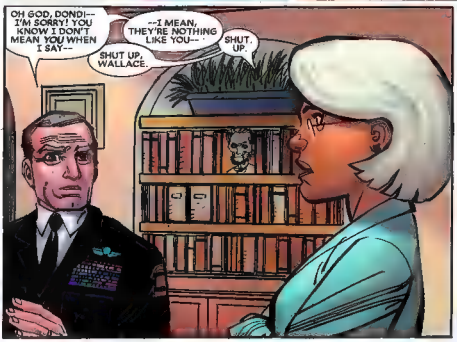
WHAT...JUST...HAPPENED?
LAST CHANCE TO LEAVE WITH YOUR WOUNDED.
SHOOT THE BASTARD!!!
BUT, SIR, WHAT IF WE *MISFIRE*, TOO? IT COULDN'T ALL BE AN ACCIDENT. HE'S DOING SOMETHING...
REMIND ME TO SHOOT YOU LATER, COWARD.
CAN YOUR JUJU HANDLE 700 ROUNDS A MINUTE?!

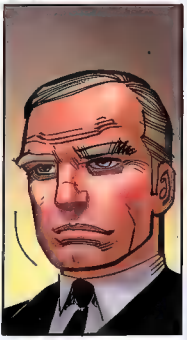
W-WHY ARE YOU BACKING AWAY?
DIE, YOU BLACK--
SIR, BEFORE YOU SLAUGHTER US ALL, I HOPE YOU NOTICED THAT HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CONTINUED TO FIRE ■■■ YOU. I HOPE YOUR OFFER TO ALLOW US TO LEAVE IS STILL OPEN...
PLEASE?

THEY CAN'T DO THAT!

WE'RE THE #$%*$ UNITED STATES OF %*$%#$ AMERICA! WHERE DO A BUNCH OF JUNGLE BUNNIES GET OFF TELLING US THEY'VE GOT A "NO F.L.Y." OVER THEIR THATCHED HUT?

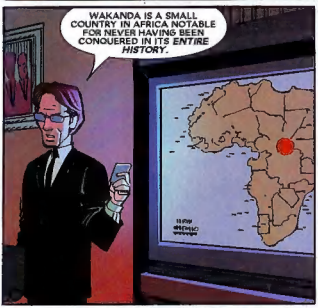
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?


OH GOD, DONDI-- I'M SORRY! YOU KNOW I DON'T MEAN YOU WHEN I SAY--
SHUT UP, WALLACE.
--I MEAN, THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE YOU---
SHUT. UP.



IS THERE SOMEONE HERE WHO CAN GIVE US SOME *ACCURATE INTEL* ON THESE PEOPLE?

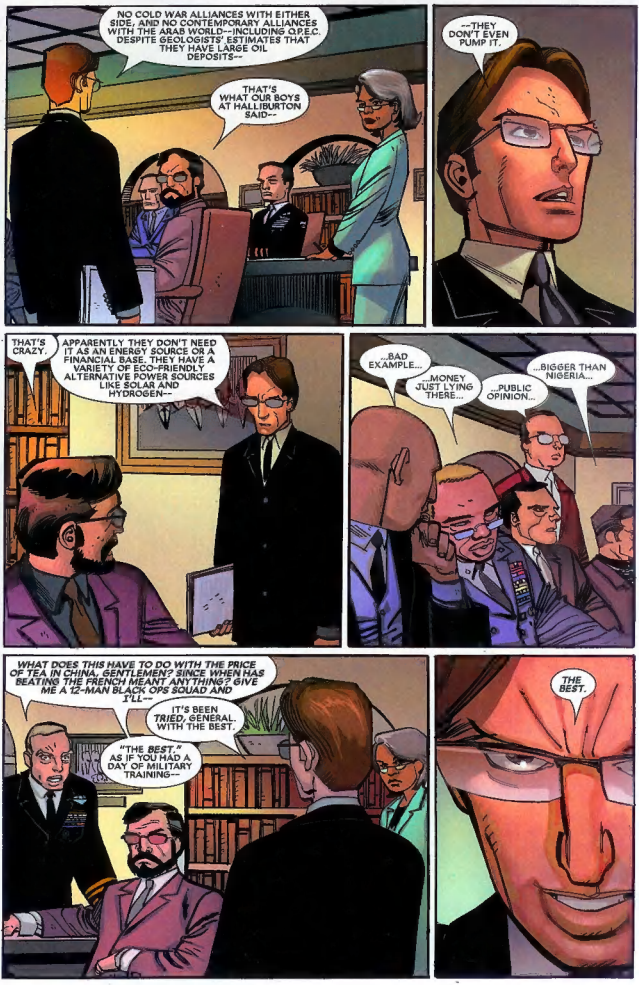
UH, THAT WOULD BE *ME*, MS. REESE.
MR. ROSS. WHO THE HELL *ARE* THESE PEOPLE, EVERETT?


WAKANDA IS A SMALL COUNTRY IN AFRICA NOTABLE FOR NEVER HAVING BEEN CONQUERED IN ITS *ENTIRE HISTORY*.

WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE HISTORY OF THE REGION, THE FACT THAT THE *FRENCH*, THE *ENGLISH*, THE *BELGIANS* OR ANY NUMBER OF *CHRISTIAN* OR *ISLAMIC* INVADERS WERE NEVER ABLE TO DEFEAT THEM IN BATTLE...WELL, IT'S...

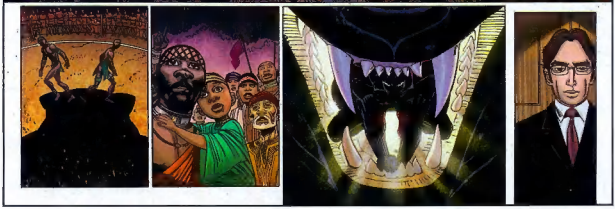
...UNPRECEDENTED.

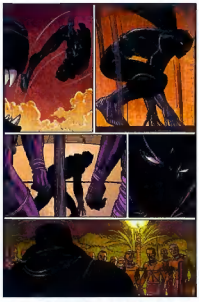
THE WAKANDANS HAVE A WARRIOR SPIRIT THAT MAKES THE VIETNAMESE LOOK LIKE, WELL, THE FRENCH. THEY HAVE ALSO MAINTAINED A *TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY* THAT DEFIES EXPLANATION.
WHERE'D THEY GET THEIR *TECH* FROM? *SOVIETS?*

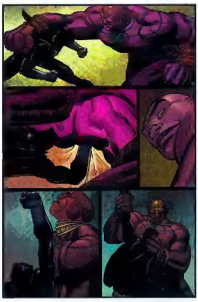

NO COLD WAR ALLIANCES WITH EITHER SIDE, AND NO CONTEMPORARY ALLIANCES WITH THE ARAB WORLD--INCLUDING O.P.E.C. DESPITE GEOLOGISTS' ESTIMATES THAT THEY HAVE LARGE OIL DEPOSITS--
THAT'S WHAT OUR BOYS AT HALLIBURTON SAID--
--THEY DON'T EVEN PUMP IT.
THAT'S CRAZY.
APPARENTLY THEY DON'T NEED IT AS AN ENERGY SOURCE OR A FINANCIAL BASE. THEY HAVE A VARIETY OF ECO-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE POWER SOURCES LIKE SOLAR AND HYDROGEN--
...BAD EXAMPLE...
...MONEY JUST LYING THERE...
...PUBLIC OPINION...
...BIGGER THAN NIGERIA...
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE PRICE OF TEA IN CHINA, GENTLEMEN? SINCE WHEN HAS BEATING THE FRENCH MEANT ANYTHING? GIVE ME A 12-MAN BLACK OPS SQUAD AND I'LL--
IT'S BEEN TRIED, GENERAL. WITH THE BEST.
"THE BEST" AS IF YOU HAD A DAY OF MILITARY TRAINING--
THE BEST.

BULL!
IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, THE PANTHER ALSO BEAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN--
DON'T SHOOT THE RESEARCHER, GENERAL.
GET HIM OUT OF HERE.
IF THIS GUY IS ALL THAT, WHO CAN HANDLE HIM?

MAIL TO THE KING!







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